CERCLIS Site Removal Assessment Summary

Site: Metem Corporation, Parsippany, Morris County New Jersey

EPA ID # NJD002139244

State Contact: NJDEP unassigned

Documents in File: SI (8/93), EPA Removal Assessment (9/ 97)

Pertinent Site Information:

The Site is located at 700 Parsippany, Road in Parsippany, New Jersey (Block 739; Lot 2). The 7.4 acre Site is an active metalwork machining facility that manufactures non-traditional aerospace hardware and a wide variety of metal products for large corporations. The facility has been in operation since 1968. The site is located in a commercial/industrial area. Lake Parsippany is situated approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the site. The facility consists of a large, one-story building with a drum storage area in the yard to the south east of the building. Most of the property appears to be either paved or grassed except in this drum storage area where gravel appears to have been placed on the ground surface.

The nearest municipal water supply well is located approximately 1.1 miles north of the site and is 100 feet deep. This well is part of a blended system. The direction of ground water flow is generally southeast, but a local component may flow towards Lake Parsippany. It is reported that the municipalities of East Hanover and Montville have populations totaling almost 10,000 persons that are served by private drinking wells. East Hanover and Montville are both located at least two miles from the site, to the southeast and northeast, respectively. There are no available reports that indicate that any wells have been impacted by the Site.

Metem operates an industrial wastewater treatment plant inside the facility. The treatment process involves acid neutralization and filtration of heavy metals from the effluent produced by the machining process. The wastewater is stored in above ground storage tanks prior to treatment and consists of water contaminated with acids, chromium, cobalt, copper and nickel. After treatment the neutralized water is discharged to the municipal POTW. The filter cake generated from the treatment operation is shipped off-Site approximately every two months for reclamation of metals. The material is stored in a 30-cubic yard lined dumpster.

An inspection of the site by the NJDEP in 1984 revealed numerous RCRA violations, including a waste oil and trichloroethane spill in the drum storage area. The contaminated soils excavated as a result of the spill, as well as waste oil drums improperly stored at the site, were manifested offsite for proper disposal. The NJDEP entered into an ACO with the company in 1985 which resulted in improved waste handling procedures. There reportedly have been no other violations since that time.

Samples collected during an EPA SI in 1993 revealed elevated levels of chromium, cobalt, and nickel, and low levels of VOCs, in soil from the drum storage area and in the sediments of a nearby stream (Eastman's Brook). Chromium in soil in the drum storage area was as high as 1,320 ppm. Chromium concentrations in a drainage ditch behind the Site leading to the brook were as high as 579 ppm. The highest chromium concentrations in the brook sediments were 162 ppm. Cobalt and nickel concentrations in these areas were the same orders of magnitude and followed a similar distribution trend. Based on the distribution of the data it seems clear that the source of the metals contamination in the brook is associated with releases from the facility.

A site reconnaissance was conducted by Removal Program personnel on May 16, 1997. At the time of the site reconnaissance, approximately 60 cars were noted in the parking lot. At that time the southwest corner of the property was being used as an outdoor drum storage area and approximately 20 drums were evident. Reportedly the containers seen in the drum storage area contained food-grade waste oils used in the machining process or waste solvents generated by vapor degreasing activities. A fence was evident around most of the property except along a portion of the rear boundary where the wetland borders the Site and prevents access. Signs warning of sulfuric acid were visible along the building in the rear yard. Storage tanks in this area were being used in the waste treatment process.

Current Status:

EPA visited the Site again on June 28, 2005 and observed a very active (75 cars in parking area) nicely landscaped facility that had the same characteristics reported in EPA's 1997 removal assessment report. The drum storage area contained approximately 60 drums and a covered 30 yard dumpster presumably containing wastewater treatment filter cake residual was visible. Some wafting chemical odors were noted coming from the facility.

Recommendation:

The data from EPA's sampling in 1993 indicates that there has been a release of hazardous substances to the environment. It appears as though heavy metal releases from the Site have made their way to Eastman's Brook and impacted brook sediments. From an ecological standpoint the concentrations detected in sediment are elevated and may pose an adverse risk to biological receptors in the brook. However, the brook is not a pristine environment in this area and receives surface water runoff from the local roads and interstate highway. There are no sensitive wetlands, fisheries or surface water intakes in or along Eastman's Brook downstream of the Site. The concentrations of VOCs and metals detected in soils and sediments on and off the Site are relatively low from a human health risk standpoint and are not significant enough to warrant a Removal Action. Furthermore, the area around the Site is sparsely populated, made up of mainly light industrial businesses, and lacking residential receptors who could come in contact with contaminated soil on the Site or contaminated sediment in the drainage ditch or in Eastman's Brook. There is also no documented release to groundwater from the Site (there are no groundwater monitoring wells on the Site) and the neighborhood around the Site is serviced by municipal water.

Based on the available information, Metem Corporation does not appear to be eligible for a CERCLA removal action at this time. However, it is recommended that ground water samples be collected in the area to determine if there has been a release to the aquifer and a delineation of the contamination in the brook be conducted to determine the extent of potential ecologic impact.

Reviewer: _____ Date: 10 - 3 - 05

David Rosoff, OSC